STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for detection of a variant nephroretinin polypeptide in a subject, comprising:

a) providing a biological sample from a subject, wherein said biological sample is a tissue sample, and wherein said tissue sample comprises a nephroretinin polypeptide; and

b) detecting the presence or absence of a variant nephroretinin polypeptide in said biological sample, wherein said variant nephroretinin polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the presence of said variant nephroretinin polypeptide is indicative of nephronophthisis type 4 kidney disease in said subject.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of an embryo, a fetus, a newborn animal, and a young animal.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said animal is a human.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises differential antibody binding.

9-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said differential antibody binding comprises contacting said sample with a first antibody that specifically binds to ~~the C-terminus~~ a C-terminal portion of said nephroretinin polypeptide and a second antibody that specifically binds to ~~the N-terminus~~ a N-terminal portion of said nephroretinin polypeptide.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises a gel free truncation test.